

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 19, 1999 LB 86A, 272

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 86A.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 86A advances. LB 272.

CLERK: (LB) 272, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Stuhr and others. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 11, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on LB 272.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. LB 272 deals with the issue of county superintendents and I want to emphasize that this is a follow-up bill to LB 806 that was passed in 1997, and it is essentially the same bill as LB 1217 that I introduced in 1998 and which remained on General File. LB 272 replaces the office of county superintendent with the optional office of a county school administrator, and I hope that you listen very carefully to that because it still does allow for local counties to make that decision. What this bill does is remove references to county superintendents in the various statutes and also transfers the statutory duties of county superintendent to other elected county officials or to district superintendents. I want to emphasize again that if a county board wishes to continue the functions of a county school administrator, it may continue to contract with an educational service unit or a qualified individual, as they have in the past. And I do want to say that I have the deepest respect and appreciation for all of those that have served as county superintendents and presently do serve. I know that they have worked very hard and diligently on behalf of students across the state. I also realize that there are areas in the state with many Class I schools and they may continue to feel that they would like to have a county administrator working with this school or their schools, and this bill does permit that option. Times change, however, and the need for county superintendents today is different than it was in the 1860s. It was reported in December of 1998 that there are only six people serving as full-time county